The Honorable Gary A. Winfield The Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom The Honorable Alex Kasser The Honorable Matt Blumenthal The Honorable John A. Kissel The Honorable Craig C. Fishbein

Joint Committee on Judiciary Connecticut General Assembly 210 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is the Rev. Dr. James Campbell and I am Senior Minister of Cheshire's First Congregational Church. I write in support of Proposed Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act.

First Congregational Church is a proudly Open and Affirming Congregation and an advocate for the rights of all people, including LGBTQ parents and other non-traditional family structures. These constituencies are fully represented in this large congregation.

This legislation is critical because not only is this about equal justice under the law, but also because it is about basic human decency and morality. To grant protection to this vulnerable subset in Connecticut is to "do unto others as you would have them do to you" - a foundational religious impulse is found in many, many faith traditions.

I write today to ask that you enshrine in law the protections and rights that so many others simply take for granted. Please protect ALL of Connecticut's families.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

James Campbell

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell, Senior Minister
The First Congregational Church, UCC
111 Church Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410
203-272-5323, x3
www.firstcheshire.org
www.jamespcampbell.com